

Examiner by changing item "39" to "49" in lines 16, 18, 25 and 26.

The amended Claim 1 now relates to a laundry collection bin assembly in which the bin is supported on a frame resting on the floor. The bin has a mouth for receiving items of laundry and a bottom through which the laundry is discharged. The frame having an inclined track along which the bin is displaceable from a lowered position in which the bottom is closed to a raised position in which laundry can be discharged through the bottom of the bin.

None of the cited art shows a similar combination of features.

The main citation appears to be US 4,802,810 (Gunn) which relates a baggage container for use in airports (col 4 lines 35-44). The container 2 which equates with the present bin has an open side 4 through which pieces of luggage are both LOADED and UNLOADED. The bin may be mounted on an unloading apparatus which comprises the frame 14,22. However the bin is already loaded prior to placement on the apparatus and therefore is NOT mounted in the frame to receive items.

Further, when the container is mounted on the unloading apparatus, the container 2 is displaced along the wall 28 which essentially closes the open side of the container. We do not consider a wall to constitute a track. However, should the wall be considered to be a track, then the track is not generally inclined to the frame 22 as in the present invention. The wall 28 is vertical when the bin 2 is placed on the table 36 and is then subsequently inclined for emptying of the bin. The empty bin and the wall 28 are then returned to the vertical. Furthermore, the items are discharged not through the bottom of the bin as in the present invention, but through its side.

With reference now to US 6,116,849 (Fesmire) the bucket 42 is mounted in a frame 41 and is raised and rotated relative to the frame (col 6 lines 22-24) using a lift assembly 66 and a tilt assembly 68. The lift assembly

moves the bucket along the inclined guide rails 74.to a raised position (Fig. 5B) where the bucket is then tilted to discharge the contents (Fig. 5C).

The Examiner is equating the bucket 42 with the bin of the present invention. We submit that the elongate bucket 42 shown in Fesmire cannot be described as a bin. A bin is essentially an upright enclosed container have a mouth at the upper end. The bucket 42 is an open chute. Even if the bucket 42 is considered a bin, the contents are discharged through its mouth by tipping after a lifting operation, and NOT through the bottom of the bin after lifting.

The documents US 3,863,781 (Butzow), US 3651,967 (Rooke) and US 3,717,270 (Rooke) essentially relate to luggage containers for use on aircraft having open sides similar to the container in Gunn.

None of the cited art, either singly or in combination, discloses the invention as now claimed, that is with the items in the bin being discharged through the bottom of the bin when the bin has been lifted to a raised position.

For the reasons given above it is believed that the claims as amended now should be allowable over the cited references and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner still feels that there are some minor matters to be resolved, Applicant's attorney would welcome a phone call from the Examiner at the below listed phone number.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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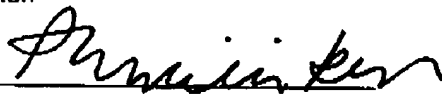
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office (Fax number (571) 273-8300) on August 1, 2006.

Paul E Milliken

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. E. Milliken", written over a horizontal line.